expected that the cost of indigenous product will be substantially less as compared with the cost of comparable product available inter-nationally.

An agreement has been signed for the release of process for commercialisation so that the product becomes available to patients in India.

Expenditure on propogating Family Welfare Programmes

2077. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what is the amount spent during the last five years to propogate Family Welfare Programmes on printing, electronic media and other means, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): The amount spent during the last five years to propagate Family Welfare Programmes in the country on printing, electronic media and other means, year-wise, is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	*Amount spent*
1986-87	828.60
1987-88	1135.46
1988-89	1424.20
1989-90	1635.32
1990-91	1535.43

2078. [Transferred to the 26th March, 1992.]

Cultivation of Medicinal Herbs

2079. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to increase the cultivation of medicinal herbs; and

(b) what is the present target of export of Ayurvedic medicines and herbs and to what extent the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) A number of steps have been taken by the Govt. in this regard which are as under:

(i) National Wast lands Development Board, an Organisation under the Ministry of Environment and Forests have introduced a Centrally sponsored Scheme for raising minor Forest Produce including medicinal plants from 1988-89 onwards in the States. A sum of Rs. 6.50 lakhs has been allocated in 1991-92.

(ii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) an organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture is operating an all India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Atomatic Plants with Nine Centres all over the country for studying a number of crops. Besides, the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources New Delhi, is conserving Germ-plasm of some important Medicinal Plants and is also working on their tissue culture.

(iii) Survey, cultivation and Research of medicinal plants, are primary objectives of several Governmental departments functioning under various Ministries, for example, CCRAS under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Central Institute of Medicinal and Atomatic Plants (CIMAP), Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation (CIMPS), National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Central Drugs Research Laboratory (CDRL), National Institute of Oceanography. The National Institute of Oceanography exclusively conducts reserch on medicinally valuable sea-weeds.

(iv) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have implemented a scheme w.e.f. 1990-91 under which central assistance is provided to the Government/Semi-Government organisations in States/UTs for cultivation and development of identified species of Medicinal Plants.

(v) Some State Governments cultivate medicinal plants through their Forest Departments.

(b) The target fixed for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 198.90 crores for export of crude drugs (medicinal plants/herbs). The achievements for the period April, 1991 to January, 1992 is Rs. 92.10 crores.

No separate target has been fixed for export of Ayurvedic drugs, however, Ayurvedic medicines worth Rs. 1.9 crores have been exported during April, 1991 to January, 1992.